



UPPER MILL & WALKER PONDS (Brewster)

General Information:

These two, relatively infertile, natural kettlehole ponds are connected to each other by a narrow channel. They are characterized by poor transparency, extending to only 3 feet in Walker Pond, and sometimes as deep as 9 feet in Upper Mill. The shorelines are wooded and lightly developed. The bottom is composed mainly of sand, although there are extensive areas of rubble. Aquatic vegetation is common to abundant. Walker Pond covers 93 acres and is quite shallow with an average depth of 4 feet and a maximum depth of 7 feet. Upper Mill Pond covers 253 acres and has an average depth of 18 feet and a maximum depth of 31 feet.

The only access to the two ponds is town-owned, paved launch ramp, suitable for trailer and car top boats, located on Walker Pond. To get there, take Route 6 to Exit 9 (Route 134) and take Route 134 north for a half-mile. Take a right on Airline Road and follow it for approximately 2 miles to its intersection with Setucket Road. Take an immediate right onto Slough Road. The access is about a mile down on the left at the southwestern end of the pond. An alternate route would be to take Airline Road south from Route 6A.

Fish Populations:

No recent survey data is available from Upper Mill Pond, but a fisheries survey conducted at Walker Pond in 1980 recorded nine species present: yellow perch, white perch, golden shiner, alewife (sea-run), pumpkinseed, brown bullhead, largemouth bass, white sucker and chain pickerel.

Fishing:

Due to the somewhat dated survey information, it is difficult to predict the current status of the fisheries resources in these ponds. Yellow perch probably remain the dominant species, however they are likely to be of small average size. Catch them in quantity using worm-sweetened jigs or by drift-trolling a small spinner blade with a trailing, worm-baited hook. Fillet a big batch of small ones, boil for just a few minutes until they cook through and curl, and chill in the fridge for an hour. The result, served with toothpicks and cocktail sauce, is very similar to shrimp. There are also some big white perch in this pond, which will be caught by identical methods and can be cooked in more traditional styles.

There are undoubtedly some big bass and pickerel in these ponds, as growth rates are excellent for both species. Unfortunately, their density in the overall fishery has always been reported as low. Still, if one were looking for a wall-hanger and can put in the fishing time, these ponds would be a good bet.

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